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PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHKUK RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR RUEHTRO
DE RUEHBS #0137 0351638
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9976
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0002
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 0122
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0098
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0319
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0420
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY 0007
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 0904
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY 0564
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY 0535
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0347
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0007
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0265
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0053
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0281

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000137

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

NEA/FO FOR ECATALANO, ISN/RA FOR RNEPHEW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2020
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [IR](#) [UNSC](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: BELGIUM: SUPPORTING "EFFECTIVE" SANCTIONS ON IRAN

REF: STATE 120288

Classified By: Acting Pol/Econ Counselor Timothy Forsyth for Reasons 1.
4 (b) and (d)

(C) Poloff delivered reftel points to Pierre Gillon, Desk Officer for Iran at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), on February 1. Gillon said that Belgium would welcome another UN security council resolution on Iran to give the European Union (EU) nations a "legitimate base" to work on additional sanctions. Gillon said that in order to get Russia and China to approve the resolution, he believed that the resolution's text will have to be "weaker" than what either Belgium or the U.S. would want. He said that Belgium is in favor of "effective" sanctions that press the regime, but not the Iranian people. He criticized the sanctions in the bill passed by the U.S. Senate that target importing refined petroleum products in Iran as "counterproductive." He said that these sanctions would not work, because they would allow the regime to make money by controlling the smuggling of refined oil into Iran and anger the Iranian people with higher gas prices, for which the regime will blame the U.S. and the EU.

GUTMAN

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